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Message Text

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62
ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 /105 R

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APPROVED BY EA/TB:JBDEXTER
EA/P - ROSEN (SUBST)
OSD/ISA - DOOLIN
OSD/PA - BEECHER (PARA 4)
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O R 052153Z OCT 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: TH
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS RE US FORCE WITHDRAWALS
FROM THAILAND

1. PRESS REPORTS HAVE APPEARED HERE ASSERTING, WITH PENTAGON GIVEN AS SOURCE, THAT FURTHER WITHDRAWALS OF US FORCES FROM THAILAND FOLLOWING INITIAL INCREMENT HAVE BEEN "SUSPENDED" BECAUSE OF (A) CONCERN ABOUT NVN BUILD-UP IN SVN, (B) SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO PEKING AND (C) UNCERTAINTY OVER PROPOSED LEGISLATION CALLING FOR MANDATORY TROOP CUTS IN ASIA. WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON THIS SUBJECT OF OCTOBER 5 BEING TRANSMITTED WIRELESS FILE.

2. IN OCTOBER 5 NOON BRIEFING, DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED FOR SPECIFICS (NUMBERS, COMPONENTS, ETC.) ON US FORCE REDUCTIONS IN THAILAND. HE RESPONDED TO REPEATED QUESTIONS BASED ON REPORTED SUSPENSION OF US WITHDRAWALS FROM THAILAND BY STATING THAT US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND
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IS UNDER CONTINUING DISCUSSION BETWEEN USG AND RTG. HE

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POINTED OUT INITIAL PHASE OF REDUCTIONS COMPLETED AND THAT CONSULTATIONS CONCERNING THE FUTURE US PRESENCE IN THAILAND WILL TAKE PLACE, WITH FURTHER REDUCTIONS EXPECTED IN DUE COURSE. SEVERAL QUESTIONS CITING CONGRESSIONAL BAN ON ACTION BY US FORCES STATIONED IN THAILAND WERE TURNED ASIDE BY SPOKESMAN WHO REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE PREMISE THAT WITHDRAWALS HAD BEEN "SUSPENDED".

3. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE GIVEN TO MCCLOSKY FOR USE IN NEW YORK:

BEGIN QUOTE - THE SUBJECT OF US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND IS ONE WHICH IS UNDER CONTINUING DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE ROYAL THAILAND GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE COMPLETED AN INITIAL SET OF REDUCTIONS THAT WAS AGREED WITH THE RTG. CONSULTATIONS WILL CONTINUE CONCERNING THE FUTURE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THAILAND, AND WE EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN DUE COURSE. END QUOTE

4. THERE WAS NO BRIEFING AT DOD TODAY. IF PRESS INQUIRES THERE ON TUESDAY, SPOKESMAN INTENDS TO RESPOND THAT HE IS NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON SPECULATIVE STORIES BASED ON UNNAMED SOURCES. FURTHER US REDEPLOYMENTS FROM THAILAND WILL OF COURSE BE WORKED OUT IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE RTG. RUSH

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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